

DAILY NEWS.

SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 30, 1865.

DICKENS'S CHRISTMAS STORY.

DR. MARIGOLD'S PRESCRIPTIONS.

The extra Christmas number of *All the Year Round* or this year is called "Dr. Marigold's Prescriptions," and seldom has Mr. Dickens's humor been more effectively put forth than in his description of his hero. Here it is:

"I am a cheap Jack, and my own father's name was William Marigold. It was in his life time supposed by some that his name was William, but my own father always consistently said 'No, it was William.' On which point I could not myself be looking at the argument in this way: if a man is not allowed to know his own name in a free country, how much less is he allowed to know in a land of slavery? As to looking at the argument through the medium of a register, William Marigold came into the world before registers came up much—and went out of it, too. They wouldn't have been greatly in his line neither, if they had chanced to come up before him.

"I was born on the Queen's highway, but it was the King's at that time. A doctor was fetched to my own mother by my own father, when it took place on the common: and in consequence of his being a very kind gentleman, and accepting no fee but a tea tray, I was named Doctor, out of gratitude and compliment to him. There you have me, Doctor Marigold.

"I am at present a middle aged man, of a broadish build, in cord, leggings, and a sleeveless waistcoat, the strings of which is always gone behind. Repair them over your will, they go like the strings. You have been to the theatre, and you have seen one of the violin players screw up his violin, after listening to it as if it had been whispering the secret to him that it learned it was out of order, and then you have heard it snap. That's exactly similar to my waistcoat as a waistcoat and a violin can be like one another.

"I am partial to a white hat, and I like a shawl around my neck more loose and easy. Sitting down in my favorite posture, if I have a taste in point of personal adornment, it is mother-of-pearl buttons. There you have me again, as large as life."

Mr. Marigold has a wife who is a virago, and beats their child, a sweet little girl, who catches a low fever and dies. Mr. Dickens has seldom excelled this picture of the father with the fist on his hip, and the dead, dull pain at his heart.

"I couldn't get the dear child to lie down or leave go of me, and, indeed, I hadn't the heart to try, so I stepped out on the foot-board, with her holding round my neck. They all set up a laugh when they saw me, and one chuckle-headed jester (that I hated for it) made the bidding 'tup-ence for her.'"

"Now, you country boobies," says I, feeling as if my heart was heavy weight at the end of a broken ash-line, "I give you notice that I am going to charm the money out of your pockets, and to give you so much more than your money's worth, that you'll only persuade yourselves to draw your Saturday night's wages over again afterwards, by the hopes of meeting me to lay 'em out with me, and never will, and why not? Because I've made my fortune by selling my goods on a large scale for seventy-five per cent. less than I give for 'em, and I am consequently to be elevated to the House of Peers next week, by the title of the Duke of Cheap and Cheap and Cheap."

"Now, let's know what you want to-night, and you shall have it. But, first of all, shall I tell you why I have got this little girl round my neck? You don't want to know? Then you shall. She belongs to the fairies. She's a fortune-teller. She can tell me all about you in a whisper, and can put me up to whether you're to go to buy a lot or leave it. Now, do you want a saw? No, she says you don't, because you're too clumsy to use one. Else here's a saw which could be a life-long blessing to a handy man, at four shillings, at three and six, at three, at two and six, at two, at eighteen pence. But none of you shall have it at any price, on account of your well-known awkwardness, which would make it manslaughter. The same objection applies to this set of three planes, which I won't let you have either, so don't bid for 'em. Now I am going to ask her what you want." (Then I whispered, "Your head burns so that I am afraid it hurts you bad, my pet," and she answered without opening her eyes, "Just a little fatality.") Oh! this little fortune-teller says it's a memorandum-book you want. Then why didn't you mention it? Here it is. Look at it. Two hundred superfine hot-pressed ruled pages—

"If you don't believe me, count 'em—ready ruled for your expenses, and a set of printed tables to put 'em out with, a double-bladed pen-knife to scratch 'em out with, and a camp-stool to sit down upon while you give your mind to it. Stop! and an umbrella too keep the moon off when you give your mind to it on a pitch-dark night."

"Now I won't ask you much for the lot, but how little? How little are you thinking of? Don't be ashamed to mention it, because my fortune-teller knows it already. (Then making believe to whisper, I kissed her, and she kissed me.) 'Why, she says, you're thinking of as little as three and three-pence! I couldn't have believed it, even of you, unless she told me. Three and three-pence! And a set of printed tables in the lot that'll calculate your income up to forty thousand a year, you grudge three and six-pence. Well, then, I'll tell you my opinion. I despise the three-pence, that I'll sooner take the three shillings. There. For three shillings, three shillings, three shillings! Gone. Hand 'em over to the lucky man."

"Then we had another lot, the counterpart of that one, and sold it at sixpence cheaper, which is always very much enjoyed. Then we had another lot, and I saw what the Chancellor of the Exchequer is going to take of the taxes, and I see what the sweetheart of the young woman in the show is doing at home, and I see what the Bishop has got for his honor, and a deal more that seldom falls to fetch 'em up in their spirits; and the better their spirits the better their bids."

"Then we had the ladies' lot—the teapot, tea-caddy, glass sugar basin, half a dozen spoons, and a candle cup and all the time was making similar excuses to give a look or two or say a word or two to my pocket. It was while the second ladies' lot was holding 'em enchanted that I felt her lift herself a little on my shoulder to look across the dark street. 'What troubles you, darling?' 'Nothing troubles me, father. I am not at all troubled. But don't I see a pretty church-yard over there?' 'Yes, my dear. I kiss me twice, dear father, and lay me down to rest upon that church-yard grass so soft and green.' I staggered back into the cart, with her head dropped on my shoulder, and I says to her mother: 'Quick! shut the door! Don't let those laughing women!' 'What's the matter?' she cries. 'Oh, we want a woman!' I tells her, 'you'll never catch my little Sophy by her hair again, for she has flown away from you.'"

"As there had been no bid at all, everybody looked about and grumbled at everybody, while I launched little Sophy's face and asked her if she felt faint or giddy. 'Not very, father; it will soon be over.' Then turning to the pretty, patient eyes, which were opened now, and seeing nothing but grins across my lighted grease-spot, I went on a gain in my cheap Jack's line.

"Where's the butcher?' (My sorrowful eye had just caught sight of a fat young butcher on the outside of the crowd.) She says the good luck is the butcher's. 'Where is he?' Everybody handed on the blushing butcher to the front and there was a roar, and the butcher felt himself obliged to put his hand in his pocket and take the lot. The party so picked out in general does feel obliged to take the lot—good four times out of six."

The child dies and the wife drowns herself, and Dr. Marigold is very lonely. At length, in a conversation with a giant "who was a languid young man, which I attribute to the distance between his extremities," and who "was called Don Quixote de la Mancha, his name being Pickleson," he learns of a most flattering character, a girl, who is ill-treated by the proprietor of a show. This child Dr. Marigold takes of the showman's hands, and who he educates her, and what "prescription" he gives her, and what becomes of her in the end, are all told.

THE N. Y. News, of a recent date, has the following: We learn from Charleston, S. C., that on a recent occasion Gen. Sickles, of the Federal army, accompanied ex-Governor Aiken, of South Carolina, on a visit to his island plantation, on Johnson's Island, to assist in persuading his former slaves to enter into labor contracts for the ensuing year. They found the slaves totally unwilling, however, to enter into such an arrangement, as, indeed, they are throughout the South generally. The prominent difficulty in their minds was the hope and the expectation that the Government would divide out lands among them. Our informant reports the following colloquy as taking place between Gen. Sickles and one of the "head men" on the plantation. It speaks very well for African logic: "General, can't you send to the government, and ask 'em to let us buy de lan', and we will pay for de lan' in two years; and if we no pay for 'um, den let the government take de lan' back."

"The General replied that such an arrangement was impossible; that the land did not belong to the Government, but to Governor Aiken, their former master, who, as everybody knew, was a very kind master and who would pay them good wages." The reply was: "Well, mas General—den we use to belong to Mosser? and den the government take us from Mosser, and gib us free? Den can't de government do de same wid de lan'?"

THE CHARLESTON DAILY NEWS.

ON THE FIRST OF JANUARY, 1866, THE CHARLESTON DAILY NEWS will be permanently enlarged to the size of the "New Orleans Crescent," the largest daily Journal published in the United States, and will be greatly improved in its general features.

The paper has already the largest circulation of any Journal published in the State, and is universally considered the organ and representative of the feelings of South Carolinians.

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December 29 1mo*

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December 6

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December 25 12

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ORDERS FOR THIS STANDARD FERTILIZER ARE requested to be sent in early, so that it may be procured in sufficient quantities in time for planting. Sold by H. S. RHETT & SON, Sole Agents for South Carolina. thatulmo

December 28

MARVIN'S PATENT COMBINED DRY PLASTER & ALUM

FIRE, BURGLAR AND DAMP PROOF SAFE.

MERCHANTS, MANUFACTURERS, CAPITALISTS, and all others having valuables to preserve, will consult their own interests by the selection of a reliable security, in place of one of doubtful character. To enable them to decide understandingly, we would suggest the examination of a few facts we have to present.

The points required in the fire-proof filling of a Safe, may be enumerated as follows:

1st. It must be a slow conductor of heat. 2d. It must hold a large quantity of water to vaporize when attacked by fire. 3d. It must be unchangeable until a more than ordinary degree of heat is applied. In this consists one of the chief merits of using alum. 4th. It must be of such consistency that it will neither escape through small leaks, nor crack into fragments when exposed to violent heat or to severe concussion in falling. 5th. It should not oxidize or rust the iron frame, as all wet mixtures, such as plaster mixed with water, are so well known to do. 6th. It should not communicate dampness to the interior chamber, and thereby would block, impair parchment and other valuables. 7th. Its value in all the above conditions should not be impaired by age and reasonable usage. In every Safe that is thoroughly fire-proof, there must be something to generate steam. Heretofore we have used Plaster of Paris, mixed with water, for this purpose. The objections to using water in the filling of Safes are:

It renders the Safe very damp, thereby often ruining papers by loosening seals, &c. It soon corrodes the iron of the Safe, and rusts holes imbedded in the centre. By the evaporation of the water the Safe soon becomes less fire-proof. These objections we have entirely obviated in our present Safe, as our filling is as dry as gunpowder, and when the fire takes place, the steam is generated by the melting of the alum.

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For further particulars, circulars, testimonials, &c., call at the Manufacturer's Agents,

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IS NOW IN PRESS AND WILL BE ISSUED ABOUT the first week in December. It will contain the NEW CONSTITUTION,

As amended by the late Convention, and all Officers who have been elected or appointed at the time of publication, together with those Officers who are permanently established by the United States for the purpose of Collecting Custom House duties and the Internal Revenue. Besides the usual astronomical calculations, there will be also a variety of other useful matter.

This Almanac, the 49th year of publication, presents a new medium for advertising at reasonable rates. Those wishing to advertise, or to be supplied with Almanacs in quantities, will please address

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"CROCKERY AT REDUCED PRICES," 30 CRATES ASSORTED CROCKERY, ALL GRANTITE WARE, landing and to arrive, consisting of DINNER, TEA AND TOILET SETS, Ewers and Basins, and Sauces, Covered Dishes, Plates, Bowls, and all articles usually found in a well selected Stock of Crockery. We offer the above at reduced prices for a few days, in lots to suit purchasers. Orders by mail promptly attended to, by O. MARR & PHESTON, No. 80 Queen-st., between King and Meeting sts. December 5 thatulmo

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November 3